

CONQUISTADOR

F1 Hybrid Cabbage



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ EXCELLENT UNIFORMITY
- ◆ WIDELY ADAPTED
- ◆ HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ GOOD HEAT AND COLD TOLERANCE
- ◆ VERY GOOD HOLDING ABILITY

Over the years, **Conquistador** has developed a remarkable track record of superb performance becoming the leading variety in Southern Africa. **Conquistador** is very widely adapted and an easy to grow hybrid. Plants are large, very vigorous and wrapper leaves cover the heads very well. Heads are uniform and very firm. Field holding ability after maturity and the ability to withstand cracking are excellent resulting in its use as an over wintering variety in many areas. Heads have a deep blue-green colour and an excellent flavour. **Conquistador** is widely used as both a bagging and hawker cabbage. It is a favourite with hawkers due to the large plant, wrapper leaves, head size, sweet taste and excellent shelf life. **Conquistador** has intermediate resistance to Fusarium yellows (Foc).

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Conquistador** withstands both heat in summer and the cold through winter very well
- Highly suited to the cooler times of the year and should mature into autumn and early winter in cool areas and through winter in frost-free areas
- Cold tolerance is excellent. However, heads should be mature before the first frost occurs
- Contact area representative for a sowing guide

CHARACTERISTIC*	CONQUISTADOR
TYPE	F1 hybrid fresh market cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef.)
MATURITY	Medium – late (warm season: around 90 – 100 days from transplanting, cool season: around 110 – 120 days from transplanting)
HEAD SIZE	Large
HEAD SHAPE	Semi - round
HEAD WEIGHT	3.0 – 5.0 kg (could be bigger depending on spacing)
HEAD COVER	Excellent
EXTERIOR COLOUR	Dark blue-green
INTERIOR COLOUR	Yellow light green
FLAVOUR	Good
PLANT SIZE	Large
PLANT HABIT	Semi-erect
BOLTING REACTION	Heat and cold tolerant, apply caution when sowing through the cool season as bolting may occur
DISEASE REACTION (SCIENTIFIC)	Intermediate resistance: <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>conglutinans</i> (Foc)
FIELD HOLDING	Very good
YIELD POTENTIAL	Excellent
SUGGESTED POPULATION	28 000 - 35 000 plants per ha
USE	Sold as individual heads and per bag
SPECIAL FEATURES	Excellent yield potential, widely adapted with high quality heads

* Characteristics given are affected by production methods such as soil type, nutrition, planting population, planting date and climatic conditions. Please read disclaimer.

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Resistance: is the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen and/or the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest or pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure (HR = High resistance, IR = Intermediate resistance).

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GENERAL TIPS FOR CABBAGE PRODUCTION

The range test

This is a type of vigour test, and is designed to give the seedling grower additional information about the lot's potential to perform at a range of temperatures (above and below ideal). As with the germination test, all other factors remain constant, it is only the temperature that varies.

Both the radicle count and the final germination count are provided for all 6 test temperatures. In the case of brassicas these are: 5/20 °C (alternating 16 hours /8 hours), 15 °C, 20 °C (ideal), 20 – 30 °C (ideal), 30 °C & 35 °C. Ask your area representative for a lot specific copy of the range test.

Crop rotation

Crop rotation is important in reducing soil borne pathogens and pests that survive in infected plant residues and have a specific host range. Systems are often designed to include a green-manure crop in order to increase the organic content of a soil. Crops belonging to the family *Brassicaceae* (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprout, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, turnip, radish, kale, horseradish, watercress, & various mustards) should not be planted in the same field more than once every three years, but can follow any unrelated vegetable in a rotational system. Cruciferous weeds must be rigorously controlled during the period when brassica crops are not grown otherwise much of the benefit of crop rotation can be lost. Green mealies and legumes are the most suitable green-manure crops for brassicas. These crops should be ploughed in while they are still green and at least 8 weeks before planting.

Post-harvest handling

Cabbage has a good shelf life and can be stored for relatively long periods of time under ambient conditions. This produce should ideally be stored at low temperatures where water loss and disease can be managed. Under these conditions the shelf life can be extended further allowing for transport to further markets and greater market flexibility.

Plant establishment

Seedlings (not older than 4 to 6 weeks for summer and 6 to 8 weeks for winter) should be watered prior to planting and should be transplanted into a pre-wetted moist soil. Ensure that the seedling roots point straight down and are not bent during the process otherwise plants will be stunted and may not produce heads. Planting out on raised beds or ridges is advisable in wet areas to reduce the risk of water-logging and stem or root rots. The beds are usually about 1 m wide and of

any convenient length. The beds are usually raised about 150 mm above the ground with access pathways between that will also enable drainage.

Soil requirements

Cabbage grows best in well drained, fertile loam soils, but can be successfully grown on a wide range of soils provided that drainage and fertility are good. Cabbage has a fairly shallow root system with an effective feeding depth of about 600 mm. Application of organic matter such as kraal manure, compost, plant residues from previous unrelated crops, or as green manure improves soil qualities and in turn has a positive effect on plant growth. To help avoid soil borne disease problems, select fields where no brassica crops have been planted for at least three years.

Cabbage is sensitive to soil acidity and therefore soil pH should be well monitored. Soils of low pH often contain very high levels of available aluminium and manganese, which adversely affect growth and yield. Molybdenum deficiencies may also be induced in very acidic conditions, especially on heavier soils. Soil pH (KCl) should be raised to over 5.5 by the application of agricultural lime at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to planting.

Disease resistance definition

Resistance: is the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen and/or the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest or pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure. Two levels of resistance are defined:

High/standard resistance (HR): plant varieties that highly restrict the growth and development of the specified pest or pathogen under normal pest or pathogen pressure when compared with susceptible varieties. These plant varieties may, however, exhibit some symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure.

Moderate/intermediate resistance (IR): plant varieties that restrict the growth and development of the specified pest or pathogen, but may exhibit a greater range of symptoms or damage compared to resistant varieties. Moderately/intermediately resistant plant varieties will still show less severe symptoms or damage than susceptible plant varieties when grown under similar environmental conditions and/or pest or pathogen pressure.

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